

It's a certainty that in perfins collecting, as in life, there will be many unanswered questions. I hope those described below will evoke some answers.

Figure 1 shows a perfin that is rather difficult to describe since it is an only copy and may have one or more missing holes. On close examination no blind holes or depressions can be found. The Netherlands stamp which carries this perfin is the 1½¢ gull of 1928 (Scott 166) with no useful postmark.

There have been several catalogs of Netherlands perfins published in the last 30 years but I have not seen this pattern listed. Could it be a logo not intended for use on postage stamps? The separated larger hole is an added interesting feature since only a handful of the hundreds of Dutch perfins are found with holes of two different sizes. Perhaps some of our European members can furnish an answer.

Figure 2 shows a POKO forerunner through the 20¢ numerical value (Scott 109). No town name is visible, but the postmark date is 12.V.22. The 1974 Bauder catalog (*POKO Issues of the Netherlands*) indicates that this perfin is found facing top to the right, as is my copy. However there is no mention of a double strike of the perfin. Is this just a freak? Did the machine jam?

The letter alignment seems to eliminate the possibility of a manual perforator. At any rate, it's the only double POKO punch I have seen. Possibly someone has an answer to this enigma.

Figure 3 is Netherlands Indies B.

M.&C.L. (Type A1 in the *World Perfins Catalog*). It is the type used by Burtt Myrtle and Company, Limited, of Batavia and Soerabaja. My copy shows a Semarang postmark. Another unused copy of mine shows the same perfin with the L missing. The question now becomes whether this example shows evidence of a pin deterioration or whether the L was removed intentionally. Could—or why would—a company become unlimited?

In the *World Perfins Catalog* there is mention of Type A20—S.M.N—with a missing S. I have copies with the missing S but they also show some missing holes in the M. This suggests gradual deterioration. Observation of many more copies of A1 would probably answer the question of intentional or accidental pin removal. Who has this evidence?

If you can help solve Schwerdt's Dutch Dilemma, you can write him at 9 Memory Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 or you can let the editor know and he'll make sure Bob gets the information.

My Dutch Dilemma

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Figure 1



Figure 2

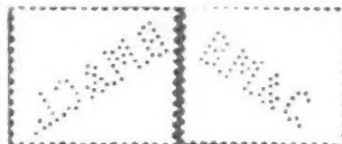


Figure 3